

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on November 26, 2002. Claims 1-3 are pending in the application with Claim 1 being in independent form. By means of the present amendment, the specification, the abstract and claim 1 have been amended. The specification, abstract and claim have has been amended to place it in better form, such as adding headings to the specification in accordance with 37 CFR 1.77(b). The above amendments are submitted to place this application in proper U.S. format. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these grounds for objection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,391,959 issued to Labib et al. on May 18, 1999.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended herein to patentably distinguish Applicant's invention over Labib et al. Claim 1 now recites limitations and/or features which are not disclosed or suggested by Labib et al. In particular, Claim 1 recites in part, "characterized in that the inner surface (4) is coated with a film (6) which comprises at least a compound selected from the group formed by trifluorides and oxyfluorides of an at most trivalent element selected from lanthanides, lanthanum and scandium.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as amended hereinabove, is not anticipated by the disclosure of Labib et al. In contrast to the claimed invention, Labib et al. discloses *a low pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp,...., characterized in that the inner surface is coated with a film which comprises at least a compound selected from yttriumoxyfluoride and yttriumtrifluoride*. Labib does not teach or disclose at least a compound selected from the group formed by trifluorides and oxyfluorides of an at most

trivalent element selected from lanthanides, lanthanum and scandium, as recited in Claim

1

For the reasons given above, the cited reference does not anticipate the subject matter of Claim 1. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) with respect to Claim 1 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

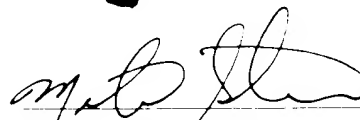
Additionally, Claim 2 and 3 depend from independent Claim 1 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 1. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claims 2 and 3 are believed to be allowable over Labib et al.. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) with respect to Claims 2 and 3 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-3, are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

Attached hereto and identified as VERSION AS AMENDED TO SHOW CHANGES MADE is a copy of text of the paragraph beginning on line 33 of page 3 and ending on line 7 of page 4, a copy of text of the paragraph beginning on page 3 between lines 29 – 30, and Claim 1.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Frank Keegan, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America Corp., at 914-333-9669.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION AS AMENDED TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 33 of the specification and ending on line 7 of page 4 of the specification with the following paragraph:

-- Fig. 1 illustrates an embodiment of the low-pressure mercury
vapor discharge lamp comprising a gastight discharge vessel 1 which encloses a
discharge space 2 and which includes a wall 3 of glass containing alkali ions with an inner
surface 4. The discharge vessel 1 contains a filling which comprises an inert gas and
mercury. The lamp has means 5, in the drawing an electrode pair, for maintaining an
electric discharge in the discharge vessel 1. The inner surface 4 of the discharge vessel 1
has a coating which serves to counteract transport of mercury from the filling to the wall 3
of the discharge vessel 1 and of alkali ions from the wall 3 of the discharge vessel 1 to the
filing.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, between lines 29—30 of the
specification with the following:

-- FIG. 1 is a partial cut away side view
of an embodiment of the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp in accordance
with the invention.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as set forth hereinbelow:

1. (Amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising
a discharge vessel (1) which is closed in a gastight manner and which encloses
a discharge space (2), which discharge vessel has a wall (3) of glass containing alkali ions
with an inner surface (4);

a filling, which comprises an inert gas and mercury, in the discharge vessel (1),
and

means (5) for maintaining an electric discharge in the discharge vessel (1), the inner
surface (4) of the discharge vessel (1) having a coating which counteracts transport of
mercury from the filling to the wall (3) of the discharge vessel (1) and of alkali ions from
the wall (3) of the discharge vessel (1) to the filling,

characterized in that the inner surface (4) is coated with a film (6) which comprises
at least a compound selected from the group formed by trifluorides and oxyfluorides of an
at most trivalent element selected from lanthanides, lanthanum and scandium